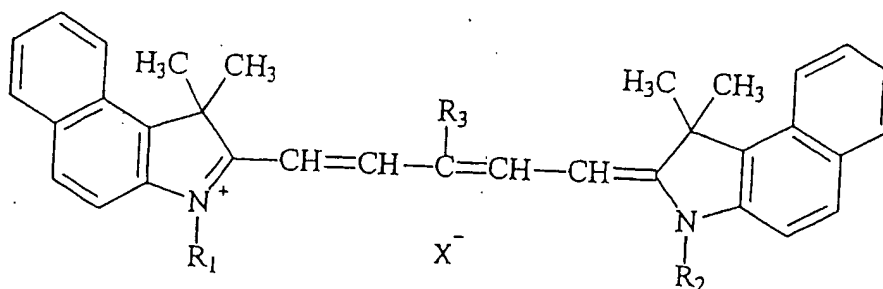


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A cyanine dye represented by Formula 1:

Formula 1:



where in Formula 1, R_1 denotes a methyl or ethyl group; R_2 differs from R_1 and denotes a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group; R_3 is ~~hydrogen atom or a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogens and lower-alkyl groups~~ halogen; X^- denotes an ~~anion excluding~~ BF_4^- , inorganic ion containing fluorine ~~or an element of group 5a in the periodic table~~ and either phosphorus or antimony.

Claim 2. (Original) The cyanine dye of claim 1, wherein said X^- is a hexafluoro phosphoric acid ion or a hexafluoro antimononic acid ion.

Claim 3. (Previously amended) The cyanine dye of claim 1 or 2, which substantially absorbs a visible light at a wavelength of around 780 nm when in a thin layer form.

Claim 4. (Original) The cyanine dye of claim 1, 2 or 3, which has a solubility of over 12 mg/ml at 20°C in 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoro-1-propanol.

Claim 5. (Previously Amended) A composition for light absorption comprising as active ingredient, a cyanine dye of claims 1 to 4.

C1
Cont.
Claim 6. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 5, which is sensitive to a laser beam with a wavelength of around 780 nm when in a thin layer form.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The optical recording medium of claim 712, which includes an appropriate light resistant improver.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The optical recording medium of claim 712 or 8, which uses a laser

beam with a wavelength of around 780 nm as a writing
light.

C₁
cont

Claims 10-11. (Cancelled)

C₂

Claim 12. (New) An optical recording medium
for improved accurate high-speed writing, comprising the
cyanine dye of claim 1.
